

Page 1	Page 3
<p>1 State of Maine</p> <p>2 BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 * * * * *</p> <p>7 IN RE: SADDLEBACK RIDGE WIND POWER</p> <p>8 PROJECT</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 PRESIDING OFFICER: JAMES CASSIDA</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14 This hearing was held pursuant to Notice at Dirigo</p> <p>15 High School, Dixfield, Maine, on March 10, 2011,</p> <p>16 beginning at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>1 just brought me the sign-up sheets for those of</p> <p>2 you who have indicated a willingness to come to</p> <p>3 the podium and ask questions of us this evening.</p> <p>4 If there's anybody that hasn't put their name on a</p> <p>5 sign-up sheet, I would ask you to go to the table</p> <p>6 and put your name on a sign-up sheet because we're</p> <p>7 going to call people up off this sheet. So if you</p> <p>8 do have a desire to speak, let Mike know and he'll</p> <p>9 get your name up to me. If you haven't decided</p> <p>10 yet whether you want to speak and you decide later</p> <p>11 on that you do, just find your way over to Mike so</p> <p>12 that he knows as we go along this evening.</p> <p>13 With us tonight from Alley & Morrisette</p> <p>14 court reporters is Joanne. Joanne is going to be</p> <p>15 taking detailed notes of all of our proceedings</p> <p>16 this evening. So if for some reason she doesn't</p> <p>17 understand something that any of us say, she may</p> <p>18 ask for clarification. She's right in front of</p> <p>19 the podium so she should be able to get</p> <p>20 everybody's attention if need be.</p> <p>21 This meeting is being held by the Department</p> <p>22 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38,</p> <p>23 Section 345(A)(5) and notice of this meeting was</p> <p>24 published in the Lewiston Sun Journal and the</p> <p>25 Rumford Falls Times. Notice was also sent to the</p>
Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 (This hearing was held at Dirigo High</p> <p>2 School, Dixfield, Maine, on March 10, 2011,</p> <p>3 beginning at 6:00 p.m.)</p> <p>4 * * * * *</p> <p>5 MR. CASSIDA: Good evening. I'd like to</p> <p>6 call to order the public meeting for the</p> <p>7 Department of Environmental Protection on the</p> <p>8 application of Patriot Renewables and Saddleback</p> <p>9 Ridge, LLC, for the Saddleback Wind Power</p> <p>10 Project. My name is Jim Cassida. I'm the</p> <p>11 Director of the Division of Land Resource</p> <p>12 Regulation at the Maine DEP, and I'll be presiding</p> <p>13 over the meeting this evening. Members of the</p> <p>14 Department or Department staff that are here with</p> <p>15 me this evening, to my left is John Hopeck. He's</p> <p>16 our staff geologist, Dawn Hallowell who is the</p> <p>17 licensing manager for the Central Maine, Augusta</p> <p>18 region where this project is located, Mark</p> <p>19 Margerum who is the project manager for the</p> <p>20 Saddleback Wind Project. To my right is Warren</p> <p>21 Brown who is our outside peer review agent for</p> <p>22 noise and to his right is Jim Palmer who is our</p> <p>23 outside peer review agent for scenic quality. We</p> <p>24 also have in the room Mike Mullen in the back.</p> <p>25 Mike has been manning the sign-up table. Mike</p>	<p>1 parties and all those requesting notification</p> <p>2 through the Department. The Saddleback Wind</p> <p>3 Project -- Saddleback Wind, LLC, has filed a</p> <p>4 Natural Resources Protection Act and a Site</p> <p>5 Location of Development Application for the</p> <p>6 proposed project in the towns of Carthage,</p> <p>7 Dixfield and Canton. The proposal is for a 33</p> <p>8 megawatt wind power project consisting of 12</p> <p>9 turbines on Saddleback Ridge, electrical and</p> <p>10 connection infrastructure, an electrical</p> <p>11 substation and transmission line, an operations</p> <p>12 and maintenance building and other related</p> <p>13 infrastructure. These applications are currently</p> <p>14 pending before the Department. The applications</p> <p>15 as well as the review comments and additional</p> <p>16 materials have been made available to the public</p> <p>17 on the department's website, and if you don't know</p> <p>18 where that is, we can certainly get you or write</p> <p>19 down what the link is. We post all of the</p> <p>20 materials for this application on the web and try</p> <p>21 to keep it as updated as possible. Sometimes</p> <p>22 there's a day or two lag but we try to get it</p> <p>23 right on the web as quickly as possible.</p> <p>24 The scheduling of tonight's meeting was</p> <p>25 intended to allow the public to have an</p>

1 opportunity to review the application as well as
 2 to review comments and additional materials, if
 3 they wish, in advance of the meeting. For those
 4 of you who have been to these meetings in the
 5 past, this is a little bit different format than
 6 we've used. Previous wind power projects we have
 7 had the meeting very early in the permitting
 8 process before the Department had started its
 9 review and we haven't come to any conclusions
 10 yet. By having it a little bit later in the
 11 process, it has given you folks the opportunity,
 12 if you wish, to go on and look at the actual
 13 review comments that we have received, and we hope
 14 that that will help to focus some of your
 15 questions and comments tonight on those comments
 16 because we're going to be using the comments that
 17 we receive both from our experts and the comments
 18 that we receive from you folks tonight as part of
 19 the decision process in coming up with a decision
 20 on this project. So your information is very
 21 important. All of our permitting processes are
 22 public processes and we value very much the input
 23 that the public gives to us. So we're very happy
 24 to be here tonight to hear what you have to say
 25 about the Saddleback Ridge Wind Power Project.

1 Our goal is a fair and productive hearing
 2 this evening. We are here to listen and to
 3 consider the evidence before us. I know that
 4 there are strong feelings surrounding wind power
 5 projects, but our job is to ensure that everyone
 6 has the opportunity to speak here this evening.
 7 So I ask that you respect each other and their
 8 particular points of view if they differ from your
 9 own. Also I request that while there are many
 10 issues related to this proposal, I want to remind
 11 folks that we are the Department of Environmental
 12 Protection and we can only consider those issues
 13 which pertain to the environment and particularly
 14 to our statutes and our regulations. So please
 15 make -- in order to make this as productive as
 16 possible, please try to limit your comments to the
 17 issues over which we have some decision-making
 18 authority, and if you start to stray outside our
 19 realm of authority, I'll give you a gentle nudge
 20 that we're getting into a bad area. We are
 21 limited for time this evening. This hearing is
 22 scheduled between 6 and 9:00, and it is my
 23 intention to wrap up as close to 9:00 as possible,
 24 not the least of which is we're supposed to have
 25 some tricky roads and we want to get people out of

1 here at a decent time this evening.
 2 If everybody that would like to speak
 3 doesn't get an opportunity between now and 9:00,
 4 you will have more opportunity to give your
 5 comments to us. We just ask that you get them to
 6 us in writing. Mark has already received some
 7 comments from the public in writing, they're part
 8 of the file and we will continue to receive
 9 comments in writing right up until the time that
 10 we issue a draft permit. When we issue the draft,
 11 it will go out for public comment. We allow five
 12 days for public comment, and once the five-day
 13 public comment on the draft is done, the record
 14 will close. So there's plenty of opportunity
 15 between tonight if you don't get your comments
 16 into the record to continue to get your comments
 17 into the record up until the time the record
 18 closes. We will notify everybody that has put
 19 their name on a sign-up list tonight or anybody
 20 that's already put their name on the interested
 21 party list through the Department we'll make sure
 22 you know when the draft goes out and you'll get a
 23 copy of that.
 24 This meeting is being recorded and
 25 transcribed. All witnesses at this meeting will

1 be sworn and all evidence entered into the record
 2 will be available during the course of this
 3 meeting for inspection by anyone who wishes to do
 4 so. After the meeting, the project file, as I
 5 just said, will be left open until we issue the
 6 draft. Again, there are sign-up sheets so anytime
 7 you want to sign up, just make sure you see Mike
 8 Mullen off to the side and put your name on the
 9 sign-up sheet.
 10 So I guess that's enough of an
 11 introduction. Before I call the first person up
 12 to testify, I will call you up by name, would
 13 everybody who has put their name on a list just
 14 stand and we'll swear you all in at once. That
 15 will save time later on. If everyone could just
 16 raise their right hand and repeat after me, do you
 17 affirm that the testimony you are about to give is
 18 the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
 19 (Witnesses respond in the affirmative.)
 20 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. All right, I
 21 guess we're ready to begin so I'm going to take --
 22 because people have signed up in different
 23 categories, I'm going to take people that are here
 24 to speak in support first, a couple people, then
 25 we'll do some folks that are in opposition and

1 then we'll do a couple folks that are neither for
2 nor against and then we'll swing back so we're
3 alternating back and forth. It looks like the
4 list of opposition is quite a bit longer than the
5 other ones so eventually we'll just be doing all
6 of that. So the first person that is on the list
7 is -- and I apologize if I'm not good with names
8 -- I think it's Alison Hagestrom, and if I did
9 get your name wrong, just correct me when you get
10 to the podium. Thank you.

11 MS. HAGESTROM: Good evening. My name is
12 Alison Hagestrom, and I'm the executive director
13 for the Greater Franklin Development Corporation
14 located in Farmington. We're an organization that
15 has the responsibility of creating new jobs in the
16 greater Franklin County area, primarily through
17 business attraction. It is the goal of Greater
18 Franklin Development to be diverse in its economic
19 initiatives undertaken to replace more than a
20 thousand jobs lost over the last decade in
21 traditional industries of agriculture and
22 manufacturing of shoes and wood. Patriot
23 Renewables has been a pleasure to work with since
24 they first started to investigate the potential
25 for a wind project in Carthage and have shown us

1 that they are serious about being a good corporate
2 citizen by contributing to many local
3 organizations. The Saddleback Ridge Wind Project
4 will satisfy an economic need in the local area by
5 providing the potential of two to three permanent
6 jobs, and an average of 50 to 70 construction
7 workers will be on site during the six to nine
8 months that it will take to construct the
9 project. The presence of Saddleback Wind Project
10 will also positively affect the indirect jobs
11 through job retention in other industries, for
12 example, vendors, suppliers, restaurants, gas
13 stations, retail stores and services and long
14 after the construction is complete a need for
15 services still exists and continues to support
16 indirect jobs through contracting with local
17 businesses. For the town of Carthage, Saddleback
18 Ridge is a 58 million dollar project representing
19 a significant private investment in Carthage as
20 well as in Franklin County and the state of
21 Maine. The tax base of the town of Carthage will
22 increase 180 percent. Patriot Renewables will
23 also contribute at least \$48 -- excuse me --
24 \$48,000 per year based on \$4,000 per installed
25 wind turbine to a community benefit fund

1 established in Carthage for the length of the
2 project. A donation of 60,000 will be given to
3 the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands to be used for
4 conservation projects.

5 Natural resource industries have long been
6 the backbone of the economy in Carthage and the
7 Greater Franklin County area; therefore, it is
8 important that we seek new opportunities in
9 renewable, natural-resource-based industries.
10 Saddleback Ridge Wind Project will strengthen the
11 economy in Carthage and Franklin County. A
12 stronger economy benefits everyone. I'd like to
13 also point out the importance of one quality job.
14 The context of the job is security, a salary and
15 promotions. Per definition of a quality job,
16 workers are paid higher wages. One job supports a
17 family, they pay their taxes and feed their
18 family, they spend on housing, goods and
19 services. These wages cycle through the economy
20 and improve the livelihood of the entire
21 community. One job leads to another job and
22 another and another, the multiplier effect.

23 This is an important opportunity for
24 Carthage and Franklin County to keep its people
25 earning a living in a place they love to live.

1 Saddleback Ridge Wind Project will provide
2 high-paying sustainable jobs and secondary
3 economic benefit to the Carthage area in a clean,
4 renewable, natural-resource-based industry. On
5 behalf of the Greater Franklin Board, I urge the
6 Department of Environmental Protection to permit
7 the Saddleback Ridge Wind Project.

8 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Next speaking
10 in opposition is Karen Pease.

11 MS. PEASE: Thank you for the opportunity
12 to speak. I notice that Ms. Hagestrom didn't
13 discuss the environment at all so I assume we have
14 a little leeway, but I won't take up much time. I
15 would like to point out to everyone a lot of our
16 information got moved over here but these maps are
17 really interesting. There's one here with pins in
18 it that show every turbine in Maine right now and
19 met tower and proposal. It's pretty stunning if
20 you look at it.

21 I am a resident of Lexington Township.
22 Currently my neck of the woods is surrounded by
23 wind proposals. I am not a resident of Carthage,
24 but I am, however, concerned with the mountains of
25 Maine and the natural resources of Maine which

1 include the residents of Maine, and that's
2 something that seems to be -- I'm looking out here
3 and a lot of these people I have just met in the
4 last year and a half. There are some amazing
5 people here. They are natural resources, and they
6 are concerned about the natural resources that
7 they live amongst that sustain them. I hope that
8 you will listen to science and economics, even
9 though it's not your forte, but it's all wrapped
10 up in the same picture. Look at the science and
11 determine if the benefits of industrial wind on
12 our mountains are worth the huge negative impact
13 to our economy, environment, natural resources,
14 people.

15 I'm a real estate agent. I own a real estate
16 company in Kingfield. I have already had my
17 business impacted by the threat of a wind
18 development. One of my brokers has had a
19 customer, a client, tell her that they would not
20 buy a certain piece of property in Highland
21 because they were afraid of Angus King's wind
22 development there. It was a 500-acre piece of
23 property. I personally have had a person tell me
24 about a piece of property in Lexington which is
25 several miles away from this project, same thing.

1 They said we want to retire in the country and if
2 there are wind turbines going up in Highland and
3 now Berdrola has plans for Concord and Lexington,
4 Larry Warren has plans for Caratunk and Moscow,
5 First Wind has plans for Bingham, Brighton,
6 Mayfield, Kingsbury, Abbott and Blanchard. Those
7 are just one little area, just like this is one
8 little area. How many projects are planned to
9 ring the River Valley? This is Maine. This is a
10 land that trades on its natural resources. The
11 Brookings Institute, we paid them to tell us what
12 to do and they did and and we're ignoring them.
13 So I ask that you listen to the people of this
14 area. Whether their concerns are directly related
15 to the environment or something else, they deserve
16 to be heard and considered because they are a
17 natural resource of Maine. Thank you.

18 MS. STEELE: Excuse me, could I ask her a
19 question? Is that possible?

20 HEARING OFFICER: We really weren't going
21 to get into public debate tonight.

22 MS. STEELE: No, I just wanted to ask her
23 -- she mentioned something and I had never heard
24 of the Brookings --

25 HEARING OFFICER: We'd ask that you just

1 speak with her on the side.

2 MS. PEASE: I'll give you a card.

3 MS. STEELE: Okay.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Also I will say that if
5 folks do have direct questions regarding any of
6 the permitting criteria, we do have the experts up
7 here and it is our intention tonight to the extent
8 that we can to answer questions. So if you have
9 specific questions about this project that you
10 would like us to address, now is an excellent
11 opportunity to get specific answers from the
12 people who know the answers.

13 The next person on our list speaking neither
14 for nor against is Melissa Burnham.

15 MS. BURNHAM: How's everybody doing
16 tonight? Thank you for coming out tonight,
17 everybody, whether you're here, pro, con,
18 whatever. Thank you for taking the time to come
19 out here tonight out of your schedules.

20 I'm here tonight -- my name is Melissa
21 Burnham. I grew up in Carthage right on -- right
22 in the base of Saddleback Mountain. I climbed
23 Saddleback as a kid. I remember going up the
24 ridge with my dad and I'm here tonight on behalf
25 of the deer, the squirrels, the chipmunks,

1 coyotes, owls, all the other animals, the moose,
2 every other animal that's up there. I really
3 don't know what you guys are thinking going up on
4 Saddleback Ridge and destroying it. They want to
5 go up there -- you guys want to clear-cut, blow
6 off the top of the mountain that I grew up in
7 front of. I don't know who you think you are. I
8 don't know where you think you get the right to go
9 up and do this, but it really makes me sick. It's
10 disgusting that you think you can go up there and
11 do this. It really is. There's so many impacts
12 that just aren't positive.

13 How much of this energy is staying in
14 Maine? I'd like to know that. Of the energy that
15 you're creating and the resources that you're
16 making, what is staying in the state? Who's with
17 Patriot Renewables here?

18 HEARING OFFICER: None of us are.

19 MS. BURNHAM: Nobody is? So how much is
20 staying in the state?

21 HEARING OFFICER: Mark, is that a question
22 that you can answer from the application? It's
23 not a question that we can answer off the top of
24 our heads but --

25 MS. BURNHAM: Nobody knows?

1 HEARING OFFICER: -- we will get you the
 2 answer to that question. If we aren't able to
 3 answer a question this evening, we will get you an
 4 answer.
 5 MS. BURNHAM: Okay, so --
 6 HEARING OFFICER: But I will point out that
 7 that is not one of the environmental criteria
 8 that --
 9 MS. BURNHAM: Okay, so everything that
 10 they're taking environmentally, what are they
 11 putting back into the environment?
 12 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Good question.
 13 MS. BURNHAM: What have they offered to put
 14 back into the environment out of everything that
 15 they're taking? Are they offering to plant trees
 16 somewhere? They're clear-cutting how many acres?
 17 Can somebody throw out a number of the amount of
 18 acres that they're clear-cutting?
 19 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Where are the experts?
 20 MS. BURNHAM: You work for the Department
 21 of Environmental Protection. You ought to know
 22 how many acres they plan on cutting off of this
 23 ridge. That I'd like to know. If you don't have
 24 a number for the amount of acres that they're
 25 cutting off from Saddleback, that's --

1 HEARING OFFICER: The application --
 2 MS. BURNHAM: No, I don't want an average,
 3 I want a number, because if they're giving you an
 4 application and they're telling you -- you guys
 5 are the Department of Environmental Protection and
 6 you don't even know how many trees they're
 7 cutting? You don't even know how many acres
 8 they're cutting off? I want a number. If you
 9 don't have one, then say I don't.
 10 (Loud applause and yelling from audience.)
 11 MR. BURNHAM: You don't have a number?
 12 MR. NOVEY: It's approximately 127 acres
 13 including the --
 14 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry, I need your name.
 15 MR. NOVEY: Andy Novey, project manager for
 16 the Saddleback Ridge Wind Project.
 17 MS. BURNHAM: You're the project manager
 18 for the Saddleback Ridge Wind Project?
 19 MR. NOVEY: Correct, yeah, 127 acres.
 20 MS. BURNHAM: Who do you work for?
 21 MR. NOVEY: I work for Patriot Renewables.
 22 MS. BURNHAM: Oh, so there is somebody from
 23 Patriot Renewables here. Okay, so of the 33 --
 24 HEARING OFFICER: Excuse me, this is an
 25 opportunity for --

1 (Many people talking over each other.)
 2 HEARING OFFICER: -- You're not going to
 3 ask questions of the applicant, first off.
 4 MS. BURNHAM: That's fine. So what are
 5 they doing for the environment? Of the trees that
 6 they're cutting off, what have they offered to put
 7 back into the environment?
 8 HEARING OFFICER: Again, the standards that
 9 the Department employs in issuing a permit for any
 10 application, whether it be a wind power project or
 11 any other kind of development project, doesn't
 12 necessarily require that any applicant put
 13 something back into the environment to recoup what
 14 they lost but they have to meet certain
 15 environmental standards along the way.
 16 MS. BURNHAM: Which would be what?
 17 HEARING OFFICER: To talk about your
 18 example, if they are clear-cutting an area or
 19 creating an impervious area or otherwise
 20 devegetating an area, they have to document that
 21 they have adequately treated any excess runoff for
 22 stormwater or dealt with erosion hazards from a
 23 project. They don't have to -- nowhere in the
 24 state's environmental standards for any type of
 25 development is there a requirement that an

1 applicant have no net loss of any area. So this
 2 particular applicant is being held to the same
 3 standard that every developer is being held to.
 4 They are being required to demonstrate that they
 5 are adequately treating for the stormwater that
 6 they will generate from their project. That is a
 7 review that we're doing. They've given us a very
 8 detailed stormwater management plan.
 9 MS. BURNHAM: Please don't just address me
 10 because I'm not the only citizen that's here. I'm
 11 representing everybody else that's out here so if
 12 you could not just address me when you're
 13 answering my questions. I'd appreciate it if you
 14 could address everybody else here because they're
 15 affected just as much as I am. Thank you.
 16 HEARING OFFICER: I am addressing
 17 everybody.
 18 MS. BURNHAM: Well, you're looking directly
 19 at me.
 20 HEARING OFFICER: That is what the
 21 environmental standard is. The Department is
 22 responsible for making sure that the applicant
 23 meets the environmental standard in the
 24 regulation, and we are doing our best to make sure
 25 that that occurs.

1 MS. BURNHAM: I have nothing else to say.

2 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

3 (Loud applause.)

4 HEARING OFFICER: Our next speaker this
5 evening is -- again, I'm sorry about the names --
6 Phill McIntyre.

7 MR. MCINTYRE: Good evening. My name is
8 Phill McIntyre. I'm here as a participating
9 landowner on the project. I'm also here
10 representing members of the town of Carthage who
11 are in support of the wind power project, and it's
12 clear that lines have been drawn already. There's
13 nothing going to be said here tonight that's going
14 to change anybody's mind in the audience one way
15 or the other so I'm not going to address any of
16 those issues. I do want to speak to the fact that
17 the town of Carthage has voted to accept the wind
18 power project for several reasons, economic and
19 other reasons. We have also voted down a
20 moratorium that was proposed for the wind power
21 project.

22 I would like to leave with you a petition
23 that has been signed in support of the wind power
24 project. We, the unsigned residents of Carthage,
25 Maine, supporting the Saddleback Ridge Wind

1 Project. The project will produce renewable
2 energy without polluting our air or water and
3 bring a much needed commercial tax base to the
4 town. There are 99 signatures on here and there
5 are actually others that would like to be added
6 tonight but I will leave this with you, and these
7 are residents of the town of Carthage who are in
8 support and here are more to add to that.

9 I would like to speak to the process that
10 has gone on as a landowner participating in the
11 project. Patriot Renewables have been on my
12 property and basically have used my driveway as a
13 launching pad for all of the inspections -- many
14 inspections that have been done throughout the
15 last two or three years, and I personally am very
16 impressed with the thoroughness that they have
17 gone to. They virtually during the summer months
18 have been there virtually every day out in the
19 field with different inspectors checking bats and
20 moths and flowers and wetlands and every
21 imaginable thing. They also in my estimation have
22 done something that is quite unique with, quote,
23 big out-of-town corporations, however you want to
24 say it. They have actually asked the landowners
25 what do you think and before they went to their

1 engineering designs, they came and asked us where
2 do you think the road should go, what do you
3 think, you know, you know the lay of the land,
4 tell me what you think, and I'm very impressed
5 with that and have participated with them and
6 walked the land with them. I own the entry point
7 and it will be going in front of Sky Theater,
8 which is a theater that my wife and I have for
9 Franklin County and for western Maine, that holds
10 cultural events every single week. We program
11 usually two events a week during the summer and
12 they have been very supportive in what will happen
13 if this goes forward as far as interruption of my
14 situation, and I see that they are very concerned
15 with the elements with the blasting, with where
16 the roads are going to go, how it's going to be
17 done and, again, I'm very impressed with the way
18 that they have worked with me. I can't speak to
19 the other projects in the area because I know
20 nothing of them. I have lived on that ridge and I
21 am one of two residences that faces the west on
22 that ridge and I've been there since 1991, and it
23 is a perfect situation for wind power. All of the
24 windows on the south side of my house are all
25 cracked from the wind going by the house and the

1 effect that it has. We can't sleep at night up
2 there because we have to wear earplugs the wind is
3 so strong this time of year, and so noise should
4 not be an issue for me and I'm one of the closest
5 ones to the project.

6 That's basically all I have to say. There
7 are many arguments that could be refuted here
8 tonight but there's no point. No one is going to
9 change their mind. I just wanted to address you
10 and let you know that we have been treated fairly
11 with Patriot Renewable and feel that going forward
12 they will keep their word and as a matter of fact,
13 everything is in writing so it shouldn't be too
14 difficult. Thank you very much.

15 HEARING OFFICER: The next speaker this
16 evening is Bob Sloma.

17 MR. SLOMA: Good evening. I direct
18 Blueberry Mountain Valley Camp which is on
19 Blueberry Mountain. It has a 20 mile view of
20 Dixfield and Saddleback Ridge and the impact that
21 we are looking at -- the impact that we're looking
22 at is quite substantial. We have approximately
23 700 to 800 guests every year that come to our camp
24 year-round, winter, summer, spring, fall and they
25 seek to get away. With that many people coming

1 just to our place, we realize that they come to
 2 get away from humanity. There's very little cell
 3 phone reception up there fortunately. They always
 4 come and take their cell phones out and we say put
 5 them away, we don't have it, but also, we have
 6 this unspoiled view and if these turbines go on
 7 there, it will no longer be unspoiled view.
 8 Twelve turbines, that's quite a substantial
 9 amount. We have Mt. Blue, Tumble Down, Little
 10 Jackson, Blueberry Mountain, Bald Mountain, and I
 11 don't know if anybody has done an impact study to
 12 find out how many people hike those mountains in a
 13 year but it's got to be at least 15,000, maybe
 14 even 20,000 people that hike those mountains every
 15 year. I know for our mountain, our parking lot is
 16 a hiker's parking lot. There's approximately 500
 17 people that come just to hike Blueberry Mountain.
 18 We've got a 360 degree view, we see right into the
 19 ridge, we see Andover, we see the potential place
 20 in Dixfield that is going to be the windmill place
 21 and also we see Saddleback, and we know Andover is
 22 already going through, but we're concerned that
 23 those who come and hike the local mountains,
 24 especially Blueberry Mountain, are going to have
 25 to look at the turbines not just in Andover to the

1 environmental laws, yet many" -- and I'm reading
 2 this from the article -- "many who call themselves
 3 environmentalists absurdly support the
 4 installation of wind farms on our mountain ridge
 5 lines as a desirable trade-off, ignoring wind's
 6 dismal record. Even if one thinks that jumbo jet
 7 size wind towers dominating every ridge line in
 8 sight like a giant barb wire fence is a beautiful
 9 thing, many people are drawn to wild places to
 10 avoid such reminders of human industrial might.
 11 Many communities depend on tourists who will now
 12 seek some other yet unspoiled retreat." And I'd
 13 ask that you take a look -- come up to the top of
 14 the mountains and take a look around before you
 15 put the wind towers up, see what's going on, see
 16 why people are out there and why we take campers
 17 every year up to the top of the mountain in Weld
 18 and just spend time up there, days on end up
 19 there. We want the clear views. We don't want to
 20 look at towers and guests from Pennsylvania that
 21 spend time up to Blueberry they want to get away
 22 from the world for a little while. They don't
 23 want to look at the towers and see the damage that
 24 they can cause. Thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Jim, do you have anything

1 west but also to the south, Saddleback Ridge. We
 2 hike to get away from everybody, not to see things
 3 that man has created.
 4 I have something I'd like to read. It comes
 5 from an article A Problem with Wind Power by Eric
 6 Rosenbloom in 2006. There's a couple things here
 7 that ultimately impact the environment. It says
 8 in the U.S., usable output in 2002 was 12 percent
 9 of capacity; in other words, 12 percent of the
 10 time the turbines are in use. That's a lot of
 11 impact for the environment, to take away the top
 12 of a mountain ridge and to clear-cut, do what you
 13 need to do to make the site usable to only get 12
 14 percent of the capacity. How many millions of
 15 dollars are spent just to get 12 percent? In high
 16 winds, the turbines is shut down; when no wind,
 17 nothing happens. There's a lot of impact that
 18 goes on for the amount of electricity being used.
 19 Florida Power & Light in this article says a
 20 typical turbine site takes about 42 feet by 42
 21 feet square gravel area and each site requires at
 22 least -- it says 15 towers here but there's 12
 23 going in this area.
 24 "In Maine, billboards are banned from the
 25 highways and development is subject to strong

1 you want to add? There were several questions
 2 about the scenic review in the beginning I think.
 3 Was there anything that you wanted to add?
 4 MR. PALMER: Only that from a scenic
 5 perspective, the state -- from a scenic
 6 perspective in environmental stuff, the Wind
 7 Energy Act is real clear that private property
 8 isn't to be considered, scenic impacts to private
 9 property. It's only to a limited number of
 10 identified significant scenic resources, but I
 11 hear what you're saying.

12 MR. SLOMA: There's 15,000 plus people that
 13 say it's going to be an impact.

14 MR. PALMER: Well, that come into the
 15 region, but if you're talking about the number of
 16 people that hike up Mt. Blue, for instance, then
 17 you're talking more like a couple thousand,
 18 right?

19 MR. SLOMA: Well, I don't know how many
 20 climb Mt. Blue, but you have Tumble Down, Little
 21 Jackson, Big Jackson.

22 MR. PALMER: Yeah, but then we're starting
 23 to get outside of the eight mile radius of what
 24 the law states is the limitation.

25 MR. SLOMA: But we still see them from the

1 other mountains. There's still impact in my
2 opinion.

3 MR. PALMER: You see a bunch of -- except
4 the law is real specific about whether you can --
5 what anybody can consider.

6 MR. SLOMA: I understand that but still it
7 is an impact.

8 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: You're right.

9 (Loud applause.)

10 HEARING OFFICER: We don't disagree with
11 the fact that you can see them from outside of the
12 three mile or the eight mile range but, again, the
13 responsibility that we have is to review the
14 development within the context of the rules that
15 exist in the state of Maine for these types of
16 developments, and that's the context that we have
17 to review them within. Whether we personally
18 believe something else, whether you believe
19 something else, we have to make our decision based
20 on those rules.

21 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I'm just curious, the
22 rules come from where?

23 HEARING OFFICER: If you'd like, you can
24 sign up and come to the podium.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I might do that.

1 HEARING OFFICER: The next speaker that we
2 have is Paula Steele.

3 (Loud applause.)

4 MS. STEELE: Hi. I wasn't planning on
5 speaking tonight but since they said you had to
6 sign up, I figured what the heck, I'll sign up.
7 Hold on. I want everyone to hear me. Hi, first
8 let me say I know that like Phill said that lines
9 are drawn. I live right below Phill. I really
10 respect him. I enjoy he and his wife both and his
11 family so this is not a personal attack on
12 anybody. So first I would say, Phill, I
13 understand that you feel that the company has been
14 very respectful to you and that's wonderful, but
15 when you say they asked for where the road is
16 going to go, they never asked me, and I live right
17 below you. You are a landowner, they're using
18 your land, so of course they're going to ask you.

19 I guess Alison pointed out that there would
20 be two or three jobs. That does not sound like a
21 lot of jobs to be created with all the damage and
22 all of the clear-cutting -- no, that wasn't Alison
23 -- yeah, that was Alison that asked that. What I
24 think that we should keep in mind on the
25 Environmental Protection Agency, that middle word

1 "protection" means that you're supposed to
2 protect the environment and take into
3 consideration the majority. Phill pointed out
4 that it was voted down twice by the town of
5 Carthage, but I was there for the second vote and
6 I know for a fact that there were six votes in
7 difference, it was 42 to 48 that the moratorium
8 was voted down, and I also know it was on the
9 second floor of a building that was not accessible
10 by people who are handicapped, by older people who
11 didn't want to go up the stairs, and I know people
12 that would have gone and voted that down. So it
13 was very, very close. It isn't like this wild
14 majority that's for it and against it, and I think
15 what everyone is telling you here is there's a big
16 emotional impact to having a mountain clear-cut
17 and blasted and then having permanent scarring and
18 visual issues, visual, you know, turbines up there
19 or turbines as you call them, the sound and the
20 visual which you say is not taken into
21 consideration by landowners, and I understand that
22 that's not your issue. I think there's an old
23 joke where a guy is sitting at a bar and he says
24 to this beautiful woman next to him, would you
25 sleep with me for a million dollars and she says

1 sure, and he says what about \$15 and she says,
2 well, what kind of a person do you think I am, and
3 he says we've already established that and now
4 we're just haggling over price.

5 (Loud applause.)

6 MS. STEELE: I kind of think that that's --
7 I'm here every night -- I think that's kind of
8 what we're talking about here. What is the value
9 of our state of Maine? I didn't grow up in
10 Carthage, okay, I'm a flatlander, shoot me, but I
11 moved up here because I wanted the space. My
12 husband and I said beautiful, it's beautiful. We
13 climb Tumble Down at least two or three times a
14 year. You know, like that other gentleman said,
15 we love the pristine quietness, and if Phill has
16 to put earplugs in his ears because the wind blows
17 so hard, it's just been pointed out that the
18 turbines can't even use that power so he's going
19 to still hear that as well as he hears the
20 turbines running when they do run in that middle
21 sector, and I don't even know exactly what that
22 is. So you're going to have the worst of both
23 worlds when we have these turbines up, and they're
24 going to be on both sides of this whole mountain
25 and I understand that there's money involved and

1 that's the hardest thing. I'm not going to pass
 2 judgment. I don't know what I'd do if somebody
 3 were to spend a million dollars or a couple
 4 million dollars to buy property from me and lease
 5 property from me. I may make the wrong decision
 6 as well, but for those of us who are not impacted
 7 financially but we are being impacted negatively,
 8 both visually and auditorilly, I think we need to
 9 have our voices heard. You know, everyone has
 10 been saying, oh, they take into consideration and
 11 you're talking about the erosion and the runoff
 12 and the Department of Environmental Protection is
 13 going to really protect that and look at how they
 14 -- un-un, I don't think that you're taking into
 15 consideration the long, long term -- once those
 16 are up, they're not coming down. If they blow up
 17 up there -- because I've seen a picture of some of
 18 these things exploding and all the oil and the
 19 shrapnel, and it's very long in cleaning up, it's
 20 -- there's just a long-term impact. I would say
 21 that when I was -- when I was present, I heard all
 22 the emotions running hot and hard when I was at
 23 the Carthage Town Hall and Herschel was the
 24 moderator, I watched him shut people down, which
 25 you're not supposed to do as a moderator. You're

1 not supposed to go, okay, that's enough out of you
 2 and now we'll move on to somebody else, which he
 3 did several times. When it was a contra, when it
 4 was against, it was like, oh, it's time to move on
 5 and then Donna Berry made the point, well, we
 6 should stop arguing and just make a vote. Well,
 7 that's not the way an actual unbiased vote is
 8 supposed to take place.
 9 So the bottom line is, it's the
 10 Environmental Protection. You are supposed to be
 11 working diligently to protect. Like this man
 12 said, we're not supposed to have billboards.
 13 Maine, "the way life should be," not turbines
 14 blasting us at every square inch and then the
 15 energy shipped elsewhere. So I'm kind of begging
 16 you guys, I bought this property -- my husband and
 17 I bought this property to enjoy it for the rest of
 18 our lives, to be able to sit out at night and hear
 19 the coy doves and the coyotes and the owls, not to
 20 listen to wind turbines blowing and not even
 21 getting the benefit of it.
 22 So my apologies to those of you who are
 23 looking to bring in some income from this. I
 24 mean, I understand that but sorry. Thank you.
 25 (Loud applause.)

1 HEARING OFFICER: Our next speaker is Brett
 2 Doyan.
 3 MR. DOYAN: Good evening. My name is Brett
 4 Doyan, and I work for Maine Drilling & Blasting.
 5 We have blasted for 85 percent of all the
 6 commercial wind farms within the New England
 7 region and employ Maine local employees in all the
 8 jobs we go to and it's nice to have a job in
 9 Maine. When we do our blasting, on average we
 10 only blast about 12 feet of rock for the project
 11 and we use it to balance the site and to make sure
 12 that we don't have silt runoff and to help protect
 13 the environment. It's really nice to work in the
 14 state of Maine and not have to go out of state to
 15 have to find a job. Thank you.
 16 (Applause.)
 17 HEARING OFFICER: Is there a Larry Hinds or
 18 Hinks?
 19 MR. HINDS: I hope you can hear me better
 20 than I've heard everybody else so far.
 21 HEARING OFFICER: You have to speak right
 22 into the mike.
 23 MR. HINDS: I'm going to do that because
 24 what I have to say is important to me. I am from
 25 Maine originally, Portland I was born, and my wife

1 was born in Madrid. I went to Camp Kawani right
 2 close by here for seven years when I was a
 3 youngster. I'm going on 87 years old and when I
 4 retired from Honeywell out in Phoenix after about
 5 30 or 40 years, I wanted to come back to
 6 Vacationland, and I emphasize Vacationland. We
 7 need to go back to the Vacationland that I knew
 8 when I was a youngster. We had hotels everywhere,
 9 the trains brought in all of the wealthy people
 10 from out of state who spent many hours and days
 11 here looking at the mountains and experiencing the
 12 mountains the way I have when we go hiking on
 13 Tumble Down on Bald Mountain nearby. Bald
 14 Mountain is one of my favorites and that's why I'm
 15 only a couple of miles away from it. I have a
 16 50-acre horse farm and that's where I wanted to
 17 come back to. I feel that there's nothing -- I
 18 have no objection particularly to wind turbines
 19 because I've seen plenty of them out west, but I
 20 can't cope with them in my backyard because I will
 21 sell my farm at a loss if this goes through and I
 22 will leave the state of Maine. I've spent a lot
 23 of money here trying to fix up my farm and get
 24 settled in, and I find that really the damage to
 25 my environment, what I like as environment, which

1 is the -- the blueberries at the top of the
2 mountain and the different ecosystems that are
3 there will never come back again. Now, I've seen
4 this happening all over this state and I wish we
5 could stop it because the money is very short
6 term. My son has been intimately involved in
7 another state with the -- with the turbines, and
8 he's an electrician. They kept him for a month,
9 he worked hard and he came back here and got laid
10 off. So it's a short-term thing, everybody likes
11 to see all this wonderful money coming from
12 Washington and -- but don't spoil what we have.
13 Enhance it rather than destroying it. Thank you.
14 (Loud applause.)

15 HEARING OFFICER: Is there a Clyde
16 McDonald? Did I get that right?

17 MR. McDONALD: You did. It's not a hard
18 name, at least my mother said it wasn't. I really
19 have two main concerns, one has to do with
20 safety.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Pull the mike up just a
22 little.

23 MR. McDONALD: Oh, sorry. That would be
24 really good. I could do an Elvis here. I have
25 two main concerns. In California, a judge

1 2014. So if the federal government or some other
2 government, Maine government, said that wind power
3 could no longer be sold, you could still approve
4 the application?

5 HEARING OFFICER: If the applicant wanted
6 to continue to seek an application under those
7 conditions, we would review it for its
8 environmental impacts.

9 MR. McDONALD: I agree, you'd have mental
10 problems.

11 (Loud Laughter).

12 MR. McDONALD: But the second concern I
13 have does, though, have a very important effect on
14 the environment and I've read all the press
15 accounts. I've never attended a DEP hearing
16 before, I did attend one at LURC, and that has to
17 do with safety. Wind turbines are known for
18 creating fires in areas that are heavily forested
19 and tops of buildings and everywhere else. It's
20 hard to come by statistics on this. I do have
21 some figures for the Capis (phonetic) Corporation
22 which has wind farms in the Rocky Mountain area
23 and is just recently developing one in Oregon and
24 while they will not tell us how many fires they
25 have undergone, there is a record of the number of

1 recently turned down a million dollar project,
2 multi-million dollar project on the grounds that
3 the power from wind was not needed because of
4 better alternatives and because the power was so
5 expensive that they could not support it. I'm not
6 that familiar with Maine law. I'm asking, can you
7 take the financial cost of power into
8 consideration when you render your decision?

9 HEARING OFFICER: We cannot.

10 MR. McDONALD: You cannot?

11 HEARING OFFICER: We are issuing a decision
12 based on the environmental impact of the
13 development on the surrounding area where it is
14 being proposed to be built. We do not look at
15 whether it's a -- for any development, not just
16 wind power, we don't look at whether it's a wise
17 development, whether the developer is taking a
18 sound risk, what the likelihood of success is.
19 None of those things factor into our decision. We
20 are looking simply at is this an acceptable place
21 from an environmental impact perspective to put
22 the development.

23 MR. McDONALD: The Province of Ontario and
24 Quebec has just banned the use of coal for any
25 energy production. I think it goes into effect in

1 fires that they've had that have required fire
2 trucks to come and make pathetic attempts to try
3 and put them out because these towers, as you
4 know, are between 350 and 460 feet tall and it's
5 hard to come by ladder trucks that can go that
6 high. So you just have to let them burn out and
7 then parts of the turbines fall off and roll down
8 the mountain side. The number that I have -- the
9 figure that I have of just this one corporation's
10 forest fires that required fire truck
11 participation was 116, and I don't see the forest
12 fire thing being addressed in these applications.
13 Is that something that you have been taking into
14 consideration?

15 HEARING OFFICER: It's not. Actually this
16 is the first time somebody has raised that issue.
17 We look at several different aspects with respect
18 to safety, but at least up to this point we have
19 not looked at fire danger as a result of these
20 particular facilities. If you have -- if you
21 could send us the report that you just mentioned,
22 we'd be more than happy to put it in the file and
23 take a look at it and see how it jells with our
24 review, but it's not something that we have
25 considered in the past. We do have safety

1 standards and they're designed to meet industry
2 specifications, but we have not considered in
3 setting those standards fire at this particular
4 point.
5 MR. McDONALD: Actually, I do have some
6 feeling for you guys because I feel the State
7 Legislature has not done its job in protecting --
8 giving us the laws that we need to protect people
9 and you are forced to only -- I guess enforce
10 those laws. I think the safety issue has been
11 overlooked in other ways by the DEP. We know that
12 there are several incidents of wind turbines that
13 have thrown off their blades and, in fact, I've
14 forgotten how many. The Capis Corporation has
15 several that have injured human beings. The only
16 record they've given us are the number of people
17 that have been hit by these blades but some of
18 these blades and fragments of blades fly off up to
19 a quarter of a mile away, and I look at the
20 Aroostook project for example where there are many
21 nearby homes near these turbines, and personally
22 knowing what I know about what's happening with
23 these fragments that are caused mainly by ice but
24 also by oil getting too hot and by wind surges
25 that put terrific strains on the working parts,

1 and so they do fly off and they are fairly near
2 buildings and I think the DEP has been remiss if
3 you are allowed to take safety into consideration
4 and are still approving projects which affect
5 human people and human property. I want to thank
6 you for this opportunity.

7 (Loud applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Brad Blake.

9 MR. BLAKE: Good evening, everybody. My
10 name is Brad Blake, and I'm the co-leader of
11 Friends of Lincoln Lakes and also a proud founding
12 member of the Citizens Task Force on Wind Power
13 here in the state of Maine, and I see familiar
14 faces. This is my fourth DEP meeting to collect
15 community comment.

16 Why am I here? The reason why I'm here is
17 that I want to discuss the cumulative impact of
18 the expedited wind permit statute, and how this
19 project and the Lincoln Lakes project, called
20 Rollins Wind from First Wind, fits into that and
21 to also ask a pertinent question, just to reassure
22 you that I'm not going to get off topic.

23 Many people came after the early public
24 supper and several people spoke, including
25 myself. Over here where I was waiting in the

1 wings while my dear friend Clyde was speaking are
2 photographs that I took of the Rollins project in
3 Lincoln Lakes. It's called Lincoln Lakes because
4 it's a tourist destination name. It's 13 lakes
5 and ponds around small mountains and ridges
6 located 60 miles north of Bangor and encompasses
7 four different towns. So it's called Lincoln
8 Lakes. The Department of Environmental Protection
9 approved that project. It is now under
10 construction. For the folks who are in the River
11 Valley area in Carthage, in Dixfield, over in
12 Woodstock, the folks in Rumford, all of the places
13 where the wind developers have their eyes on you,
14 if there's anybody here from places like Canton
15 and Peru, pay attention, go look at those photos,
16 because this is what's going to happen to your
17 mountains, and I thank the gentleman from Maine
18 Drilling & Blasting for coming up here and saying,
19 in essence, I blast away the tops of ridge lines
20 and mountains in the state to put up wind
21 turbines. He corroborates what we say. It's
22 real. On November, the 6th, the day before the
23 Rollins rally, I was on the ground taking the
24 photos, probably trespassed, but I don't give a
25 damn because the state of Maine belongs to me and

1 everybody here in this room.

2 (Loud applause.)

3 MR. BLAKE: I read just two nights ago the
4 enabling legislation for the Department of
5 Environmental Protection and basically the mission
6 statement of the DEP that you work for uses on the
7 web page. I would like to know how blasting away
8 the tops of mountains, moving hundreds of
9 thousands of cubic yards of rock rubble and soil
10 around to level the mountains, scalping it in the
11 process fits into environmental protection. Now,
12 that's a rhetorical question, but the concern that
13 I have is that these folks who work for the
14 department do their professional best in a damn
15 difficult situation because heinous public law
16 that is expediting wind permitting have got these
17 people in a straight jacket. The only thing they
18 can do is sit politely and listen to those of us
19 who give a damn about environmental protection and
20 not blowing up the tops of mountains and say,
21 well, you know, we listened, we went to Lincoln,
22 we went to Rumford to listen to the Record Hill,
23 we went to Woodstock for Spruce Mountain, our
24 buddies over at LURC have been busy listening
25 about Kibby and Bowers Mountain, but, yet, there's

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 that rubber stamp that is in this heinous statute 2 that they have to get out of and put on that 3 application. 4 Friends, Saddleback Ridge is doomed. You're 5 going to see turbines. It's going to be a long, 6 excruciating, painful process for everybody who 7 gives a damn. You're going to have pictures of 8 Saddleback Mountain in Carthage, Colonel Holman 9 Mountain in Dixfield, Spruce Mountain in Woodstock 10 and who knows where else they're targeting in the 11 River Valley area, in addition to Record Hill 12 that's already been approved, and you're going to 13 be seeing pictures like that. 14 Welcome to Lincoln, look at beautiful 15 Mattanawcook Lake, to the ridges of Rocky Dundee. 16 I used to encourage people, don't call it Stinkin 17 Lincoln, plug your nose as you go by and look at 18 that beautiful lake and the ridges of Rocky Dundee 19 and now you see nothing but wind turbines going 20 up. Welcome to the new tourist area of the land 21 of 40 turbines, and over 800 people who own 22 year-round properties and seasonal camps on those 23 13 lakes are affected directly by that project and 24 the ones who are not affected directly by noise 25 are affected by the loss of property value.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 look like these photos over here. They're going 2 to be in your backyard, they're going to be in 3 your front yard, in your side yard, in your 4 dooryard and all of your neighbors' and 5 neighboring communities' backyards and front yards 6 and side yards and dooryards. 7 So what is the cumulative effect of all 8 this? It won't be Vacationland anymore. It's 9 going to be turbine land. Now, one last question 10 and then I'll shut, up and this question deals 11 with scenic impact. Tell everybody where the 12 standard for eight miles of impact on visual 13 impact comes from because from my perspective, and 14 I've been an avid hiker ever since I could go up a 15 mountain and have hiked every damn mountain out 16 here that has a marked trail on it, to me putting 17 those turbines up on Saddleback Ridge in Carthage 18 impacts every mountain out there as does the 19 Record Hill project over in Roxbury, the Spruce 20 Mountain project that you will see the entire 21 spine of the Appalachian Trail that goes through 22 the Mahoosuc Public Land Preserve. Where does 23 that come from? 24 MR. PALMER: Where does the eight mile -- 25 MR. BLAKE: Yes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 What's next for Friends of Lincoln Lakes? 2 We're organizing a massive campaign to go in and 3 get tax rebates from the towns. So if the towns 4 think this is such a damn good idea, wait until 5 they have to give tax rebates for people losing 6 their property value. So the cumulative effect is 7 that if you look at the Lincoln Lakes project, 8 that project is blasted away and scalped seven 9 miles of ridge line, including the power line 10 clearance 20 miles to go up to the substation in 11 Mattawamkeag. You're going to have a thousand 12 acres permanently clear-cut by that project, and 13 don't listen to the wind developers who say, oh, 14 it's just those little areas around the pads, 15 folks, because we know from having been through 16 the process that what the wind developer says and 17 what they show you, there's a vast different 18 reality when it starts. So if you take the 40 19 turbines of Lincoln Lakes and you project that, 20 those 60 megawatts into the state's goal that's 21 incorporated in that wind permitting process 22 statute, then you're going to see around the state 23 and you're already seeing the beginning of the 24 surge of that wave of proliferation of sprawling 25 industrial wind turbine sites, 45 more sites that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 MR. PALMER: -- limit come from? 2 MR. BLAKE: Yes. 3 MR. PALMER: It was part of the Governor's 4 task force recommendation and it doesn't say in -- 5 (Audience indicates they can't hear speaker.) 6 HEARING OFFICER: Can I give you this? 7 MR. PALMER: Oh, yes. 8 MR. BLAKE: All you need to know is the 9 Governor's Wind Task Force, which was a stacked 10 deck if there ever was one, picked it out of thin 11 air and now we have it shoved up our asses. Thank 12 you. 13 (Loud applause and yelling.) 14 HEARING OFFICER: I'd just like to remind 15 everyone that we're here for civil discourse and I 16 expect everyone to act accordingly and we all 17 respect each other. Robert Rand is the next 18 speaker. 19 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: We'll be little 20 angels. 21 MR. RAND: I get to follow Brad. My name 22 is Robert Rand. I'm a member of the Institute of 23 Noise Control Engineering and I'm here with my 24 colleague, Stephen Ambrose, just to make a few 25 comments on a written submittal which we've</p>

1 already given to the DEP on the Saddleback Ridge,
2 and to make sure, I just wanted to convey this
3 information face to face in case you hadn't had a
4 chance yet to review what we submitted.

5 And I appreciate very much that you're in a
6 quandary with the existing regulations which
7 you're being asked to issue permits under. The
8 Maine regulation was designed back in 1989 to
9 solve a problem in the single urban portion of the
10 state to solve a problem for Merrill Transport.
11 It was conveyed onto the entire state of Maine
12 through a legislative vote and the levels which
13 are appropriate for the urban area are not
14 appropriate for the deep quiet rural and
15 wilderness areas of Maine, and this is where I
16 have found myself coming into play the last couple
17 of years after hearing that the citizens of Mars
18 Hill had filed a lawsuit two years ago.

19 While the standards that you look at in
20 terms of what a sound meter measures, decibels,
21 are extremely well defined, they are too high to
22 work in the particular case of wind turbine noise.
23 It's a little bit like saying, well, we're going
24 to let those bars have music around the clock.
25 There's a point where, as people, we understand

1 that noise can be annoying, and meters don't
2 measure annoyance. They don't measure a nuisance,
3 they measure decibels, but decibels is what you
4 have for a standard. So you're in a quandary
5 because even if a wind turbine produces a sound
6 level of, let's say, 40 dB out at 2, 3, 4,000
7 feet, which is under the standard, that level, as
8 we have documented in our report to you, is more
9 than sufficient to cause widespread complaints or
10 appeals to stop the noise in that vicinity. So
11 you have a conundrum. You have a clear standard
12 which you can measure models or predictive levels
13 with, but the standard has no relevance to what's
14 actually going on in communities near wind
15 turbines. You do, however, have a path as we
16 outlined in our report to you to exercise
17 reasonable requirements to ensure that the
18 developers made adequate provision for the control
19 of noise, that's in Paragraph E which you're
20 familiar with, and Steve and I have asked you in a
21 sense in our report to consider that very
22 carefully because you actually do have a path,
23 although it's a bit unmarked, you don't have 55s
24 and 45s to work with, you do have a path outline
25 for you as to how to protect the citizens who live

1 near where these facilities are being built, and I
2 hope you consider that carefully, and if you have
3 questions, we've always been here for you to
4 contact us and go over these issues and ask very
5 hard questions and figure out does this make any
6 sense, what we have written and what we have
7 presented to you.

8 Our conclusions with Saddleback Ridge are a
9 little bit more pointed in some respects because
10 we -- it is our professional opinion that the site
11 will not meet the decibel standards that comprise
12 the law at night at the nearest residences. The
13 applicant did not include the 3-dB uncertainty
14 factor in the model which has been found to be a
15 prudent adjustment to make based on the Mars Hill
16 studies and the Stetson calibration studies that
17 have been done. So we don't think they can meet
18 them, not down to the south where you're out at
19 the end of the line of turbines, and not off to
20 the side. They will be several dB over and
21 because they're going to be several dB over at
22 night, the only option that you have is to shut
23 them down. This was borne out by the NRO study at
24 Vinalhaven, which didn't even publish in the study
25 the noise levels that they attempted to

1 correlate. There was a statement I think on the
2 first page that there's no significant difference
3 in noise levels when they ran under noise
4 reduction options or not. So we haven't seen any
5 proof provided by the applicants that the NROS
6 that they propose to meet the limits at night will
7 actually do any good.

8 There are suggestions that I have received
9 third hand that the noise levels are actually
10 higher due to -- at night due to wind shear and
11 the fact that no matter how you pitch a blade,
12 you're going to have some noise and it may be that
13 it was -- they actually got higher levels under
14 NRO operations than not, but I haven't seen those
15 data so I can comment on that.

16 What Steve and I have done over the last --
17 especially the last six months is come up with a
18 credible method for predicting community reaction
19 to noise. It's in our report which was furnished
20 to you which is on the Friends of Maine Mountains
21 website and if anybody wants to contact us to
22 discuss it, we'd be more than happy to talk with
23 any of you and especially any of the people that
24 are up here.

25 Our conclusion was that all nearby

1 residences -- this is without the adjustment for
 2 the uncertainty factor -- would be impacted by
 3 noise levels day and night that are predicted to
 4 result in community impact reactions ranging from
 5 widespread complaints or strong appeals to stop
 6 the noise to vigorous community action which
 7 usually manifests itself as litigation. The
 8 litigation could be between the residents and the
 9 developer, the residents and the state, the state
 10 and the developer or any combination thereof, and
 11 it's been our experience that oftentimes the
 12 community senses the potential for adverse
 13 reaction and proceeds at that level of reaction
 14 before the facility is built. So our study that
 15 we performed to review the application provided
 16 clear evidence that the proposed facility would
 17 have an adverse impact on the health and welfare
 18 of the nearby neighbors, and that brings us back
 19 to that Paragraph E which leads back to the
 20 preamble which was the board's intent that
 21 excessive noise which could degrade health and
 22 welfare should be controlled. So we've -- what
 23 we've tried to do for you is outline the
 24 connections between that which can't be measured
 25 with a meter and the original intent of the board

1 about eight years. During that time, Saddleback
 2 Wind was a playground, it was a place where I
 3 could walk through, I'd go up there during summer,
 4 sleep out on top, wintertime I'd snowshoe across
 5 the ridge, skied down Anderson Ridge a few times
 6 and have some scars to show for it, and all that
 7 time I think I really gained an appreciation for
 8 this part of Maine. Like many people, the reason
 9 why -- I moved a couple times. I went out for
 10 work to Minnesota, went out to Montana but came
 11 back here, we settled here and I'm raising my
 12 family here and a big part of it is because of the
 13 natural resources in this part of the state and
 14 the landscapes.

15 From what I've seen in looking at the
 16 literature that I've seen on wind, I've tried to
 17 be objective about it and I've tried to see if
 18 this is something that will really be good for
 19 Maine, good for our future, and I guess from what
 20 I have seen in the last 30 years or so that this
 21 type of wind development has been utilized, first
 22 in Europe and now here as well, I'm just not
 23 convinced, far from it, that it really is a type
 24 of development where the end measured in
 25 milliwatts is going to justify the means if that

1 and the overarching intent of the regulation, and
 2 I understand how difficult it is to take that path
 3 when setting a permit compared to simply looking
 4 at model noise levels and comparing them to
 5 established standard sound limits.

6 So I hope you will take the time to
 7 seriously look at the effect on the reaction in
 8 the community. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

10 (Loud applause.)

11 HEARING OFFICER: Our next speaker is Scott
 12 Lindsay.

13 MR. LINDSAY: Hello, DEP. I want to thank
 14 you for coming tonight and I do appreciate the
 15 thorough review you've given to the projects. I
 16 know you've got a job ahead of you here, and I
 17 also want to thank everyone in this room for
 18 coming tonight. I think it's important that this
 19 area, for those of us who live here, it's
 20 certainly our neck of the woods and it's obvious
 21 that a lot of people do have an interest in what
 22 the future of this area is going to be.

23 First off, I am a resident of the town of
 24 Wilton, which is a neighbor of Carthage, and I was
 25 a former and proud resident of South Carthage for

1 includes erecting these towers on a significant
 2 number of miles of ridge tops and mountain tops in
 3 Maine, particularly if you consider the goals of
 4 the Wind Task Force to have about 3,000 megawatts
 5 online as of 2025. That's going to be a
 6 significant number of turbines that have to go up
 7 and I just wonder at the same time what are we --
 8 what is that going to cost us as far as a very
 9 important part of the Maine brand, and that's why
 10 people come here is because of our landscape,
 11 because of our natural resources. They don't come
 12 here because we have the best hiking in the
 13 country, they don't come here because we have the
 14 best bass fishing or the best bird hunting. They
 15 come here because it's bass fishing in Maine, it's
 16 hiking in Maine, bird hunting in Maine. There's
 17 something about it which draws people, and I've
 18 run into people who live across the country and
 19 they come here because of our unique landscapes
 20 and how it's not industrialized. So I just ask,
 21 again, just try to think of -- when you consider
 22 the number of people that come, objectively it may
 23 be hard really to quantify it in totality but
 24 there was a report by Boyle out of the University
 25 of Maine, and this was done probably about seven

1 or eight years ago now, where it was concluded
 2 that 2.5 billion dollars is the amount of money --
 3 of revenue that comes into this state from fish
 4 and wildlife, natural resource reasons. That's
 5 why people come here, and I just wonder when you
 6 do have towers up if it's something that is not
 7 going to be justified as far as any benefit
 8 directly to our environment as far as what they
 9 are producing. We are left with 40 miles of ridge
 10 tops, places that prior to this have really never
 11 been developed, some of them have been certainly
 12 logged and the good thing about that is our
 13 forests are productive enough that things come
 14 back, but once turbines are there, this is a
 15 permanent development. There are lights up there,
 16 lights are blinking. Cumulatively over time I
 17 just really think that that's going to really
 18 compromise a lot of qualities of life. We do live
 19 here, and so I guess that's just my comments
 20 tonight. Thank you.

21 (Loud applause.)

22 HEARING OFFICER: The next speaker on the
 23 list I believe is Leola Ballweber. Please correct
 24 me if I got your name wrong.

25 MS. BALLWEBER: Leola Ballweber. It's good

1 to see you all. You're in a pickle, and I respect
 2 that. I have one major question that has been
 3 brought to my attention and that is that LURC is
 4 now actually allowing hearings on these, and I
 5 would like to encourage you to consider allowing
 6 hearings on these issues. The Spruce Mountain
 7 project was a difficult one for you, and it's a
 8 difficult one for me. I now understand that it
 9 does not matter if the project works or not. Six
 10 turbines have to be turned down to meet DEP's
 11 regulations for sound 2,500 feet away from the
 12 closest resident, two turbines, not one, on the
 13 arc. If Patriot wants to be a good neighbor, they
 14 need to consider the townships they're coming into
 15 and the impacts they are making on that community,
 16 the division that's created, the money that's
 17 flying around. This is not Maine to be divided
 18 like this. We are neighbors. We support each
 19 other and we're there for each other. I just want
 20 to say thank you. We have the opportunity now to
 21 see that the laws are changed so that you can do
 22 the job that you're paid to do. Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 HEARING OFFICER: Dr. Albert Aniel.

25 MR. ANIEL: Boy, I have some tough acts to

1 follow here. I'm Dr. Albert Aniel. I've been a
 2 practicing internist for about 30 years. I've
 3 studied some of the wind issues and the noise
 4 issues and I've testified as a medical expert in
 5 Pennsylvania about noise issues and health hazards
 6 created by wind turbines, and to answer the
 7 question that Melissa first asked, what is the
 8 community gaining, what is coming out when the
 9 mountains are blasted and the wind turbines are
 10 put up. The answer is simple. It's noise. It's
 11 noise and it's low frequency sound and those
 12 entities will affect people's well-being.

13 I can assure you that anyone living within a
 14 mile of wind turbines, if they don't hear anything
 15 now, will definitely hear something most of the
 16 time and especially at night, and it's going to
 17 drive them crazy, and this was well developed and
 18 well shown by Mr. Rand already previously at
 19 previous meetings, and I believe that through DEP,
 20 Jim, you've got that information as well. The
 21 National Institute of Health, which is our highest
 22 medical authority, stated in 2008, quote, "wind
 23 energy will undoubtedly create noise which
 24 increases stress which in turn increases the risk
 25 of cardiovascular disease and cancer." That is

1 the National Institute of Health in 2008.
 2 Almost all the primary care physicians at
 3 the Rumford Hospital, the complete medical staff
 4 of Northern Maine Medical Center, the Maine
 5 Medical Association, the Maine Osteopathic
 6 Association have expressed their concern with the
 7 health hazards related to industrial wind turbines
 8 and Rumford's medical staff and Fort Kent medical
 9 staff has asked the state for a moratorium and
 10 this has been denied. The French Academy of
 11 Medicine in 2006 came up with strict setbacks and
 12 noise guidelines to mitigate the health hazards
 13 related to wind turbine noise. Most recently, the
 14 World Health Organization in 2009 came up with
 15 revised noise standards and these guidelines are
 16 now observed by most European countries and some
 17 towns and counties even in our own country and
 18 state. Dr. Dora Mills, the then head of Maine's
 19 CDC, had contacted Dr. Rabinowitz who is the
 20 associate professor of medicine and occupational
 21 health at Yale and inquired about wind turbine
 22 noise and health issues. He stated that there
 23 were problems with noise and that she should act
 24 upon it. She did not. We have that information
 25 available through the Freedom of Information Act.

1 Are all these professional organizations
2 wrong? People in Mars Hill, Freedom and
3 Vinalhaven who live within one mile of wind
4 turbines are suffering from various medical
5 ailments and are in litigation to get redress. In
6 all these instances, wind turbines have been put
7 in place according to the guidelines of the
8 so-called state model, a model who according to --
9 even Mr. Warren Brown is here tonight who is the
10 state noise consultant, stated that the state
11 model failed the people at Vinalhaven. It would
12 take too long to get into the specifics of the
13 physiopathology of the medical issues but to us
14 physicians, the health hazards related to noise
15 and low frequency sound generated by these wind
16 turbines sounds low frequency noise standards that
17 are way above what they are recommended
18 internationally that these effects no longer need
19 to be proven to us in the medical field. The
20 issue that we face as scientific professionals and
21 something I would like you to convey to your
22 department head is why is this willful medical
23 negligence allowed to continue? Part of it is
24 corruption. When first warned about the health
25 hazard due to industrial wind noise, Dr. Dora

1 Mills, then of CDC, sent her first e-mail to DEP.
2 She stated verbatim that she did not know much
3 about the issue but how could she refute our
4 assertions? Then there follows a series of
5 e-mails from DEP telling Dr. Dora Mills how to
6 answer publicly the assertions that we had made
7 from the Rumford medical staff at the time which
8 was the first medical staff. So, you know, as a
9 physician, I'm frustrated, I'm angry. There's
10 medical information out there that says people are
11 suffering, people are suing. Mr. Rand with his
12 studies has proven in our state what other people
13 know all over the world, what the World Health
14 Organization is recommending. So I urge you to
15 tell your department heads to look at these
16 regulations and change them because it's not good
17 enough to say, well, we have to abide by the
18 standards because those are the standards that we
19 were given by the Legislature. That needs to
20 change, okay? It just isn't right. Just because
21 it is in writing as the law, it doesn't mean that
22 the law is right. The law needs to be changed,
23 and I depend on you guys to do that, and I
24 appreciate the tough position you are in. Thank
25 you very much.

1 (Loud applause.)

2 HEARING OFFICER: Our next speaker is Frank
3 Hutchinson. And before Frank steps to the podium,
4 I've just been handed three more sign-up sheets.
5 We've got 25 more speakers and an hour and a half
6 to do it in. So I'm going to ask that people try
7 to keep their comments as concise as possible. I
8 don't want to cut people off, but I do want to
9 give everybody an opportunity to speak if I can
10 and if you don't get an opportunity to say
11 everything that you would have liked to, again,
12 you're more than welcome to put it in writing to
13 us and we'll accept all your comments and put them
14 in the file.

15 MR. HUTCHINSON: Good evening. Coming down
16 here was like walking through a corn maze, and I'm
17 a resident of Carthage, born on a farm there, and
18 several years ago I was hired by the state of
19 Maine as an interpretive ranger based on my
20 knowledge of the woods in Carthage. In the
21 fifties, I worked with a twitch horse and bucksaw,
22 and for those people that have logged, I've been
23 kissed by a widow maker and so if I look at you
24 and one eye goes that way, I'm not being rude,
25 it's just the way I am.

1 I was hired as an interpretive ranger, as I
2 said, because I have that knowledge, and before I
3 continue further, I feel so futile -- I feel so
4 futile being here because according to past
5 testimony, you rubber stamp everything, and I am
6 probably extremely naive in saying that every one
7 of you has the option to be a profile in courage.

8 (Loud applause.)

9 MR. HUTCHINSON: Do you have the character
10 to be a profile in courage? If you don't, I might
11 as well go back to my seat. Just below the ridge
12 of Saddleback there's a vast softwood grove. I've
13 walked it, I've loved it, I've hunted it, I know
14 what's there. I go up there and I see the deer
15 beds. I go up there and I see the bobcat tracks
16 once in a while following the deer. I go up there
17 and I scare up a partridge. Gentlemen, how many
18 of you have scared up a mother partridge? How
19 many of you, please, have scared up a mother
20 partridge? Have you seen greater nobility? Are
21 we humans as noble? You scare a mother partridge,
22 she flutters in front of you while her young hide,
23 she acts as though she's got a broken wing. How
24 noble. Are we as noble? Are you as noble to be
25 profiles in courage? It is said and we have been

1 bludgeoned by the following fact time and time and
 2 time again in the media. Eighty percent plus of
 3 the public wants windmills. I had such a unique
 4 perspective as an interpretive ranger. I took the
 5 public gold panning, canoeing and hiking. I know
 6 what the public concept of nature is. The way
 7 life is, most of the concept is that of a walk in
 8 a city park. This is not a criticism. It's an
 9 observation. It's a walk in a city park. Take
 10 them and possibly some of you to that softwood
 11 grove, say to them, and then look at the deer bed,
 12 you're out of here. Carthage has been cut so hard
 13 like northern Maine that the shelter is not there
 14 anymore. I'm quite sure most of you have heard
 15 about the massive kill off in the north because of
 16 the lack of protection. Come to my house on top
 17 of Story Hill in Carthage, take a walk on a
 18 snowmobile trail and look at the deer beds
 19 underneath the heavily boughed firs and pine. Rub
 20 elbows with reality. I wish the public could rub
 21 elbows with reality. I wish they could
 22 extrapolate their love and affection and
 23 protection that they have for their animals to the
 24 animals in the wild. I wish they could do that.
 25 Now, to me, it is so tragic that all

1 business growth opportunity for our company.
 2 We've worked on some other ones in Maine as well
 3 as around New England. I can tell you our
 4 employees who live in this area of the state are
 5 very excited about the opportunity this would
 6 present. They'll be able to come to work every
 7 day and also go home every night to see their
 8 kids.
 9 A little bit about our company and the jobs
 10 that we do create, we do provide 100 percent
 11 health insurance for our people, we provide
 12 retirement for our people and the average wage is
 13 over \$20 an hour. These are good jobs for good
 14 Maine people and these are the projects that
 15 create these jobs. On a personal note, I live in
 16 Maine also, I have two children, two young boys.
 17 This guy here, I have to mention has been
 18 extremely well behaved. Congratulations. My boys
 19 couldn't do that, but this is an opportunity for
 20 growth for our state. I feel strongly this is an
 21 opportunity we have to take advantage of so that
 22 my children will grow up and have jobs in the
 23 state and be able to stay here and not have to
 24 move out of state to work here. That's my time.
 25 Thank you.

1 creatures great and small have become somewhat
 2 irrelevant. It is so tragic that all creatures
 3 wild and wonderful have become somewhat
 4 irrelevant. It is so tragic that if we don't
 5 protect those animals on Saddleback and if you
 6 modify their habitat by so many wind turbine
 7 areas, it is so tragic that if we don't stand firm
 8 and protect them, that we become less morally
 9 relevant.
 10 Thank you, gentlemen and lady. Please,
 11 please be profiles in courage. Am I up here in an
 12 exercise in futility? Everybody said rubber
 13 stamp, rubber stamp, Mr. Blake -- I'm not tearing
 14 you down, Mr. Blake, but everybody said rubber
 15 stamp, rubber stamp, rubber stamp, and I've heard
 16 that so often but you can be profiles of courage,
 17 and if you aren't going to be, will you not be
 18 less morally relevant? Thank you, gentlemen.
 19 (Loud applause.)
 20 HEARING OFFICER: Brad Strout.
 21 MR. STROUT: Thank you for the time. My
 22 name is Brad Strout. I work for Coutts Brothers,
 23 Incorporated. We're a family-owned business in
 24 Randolph, Maine, employing about 30 people. We
 25 build high-voltage power lines. Wind farms are a

1 (Applause.)
 2 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mr. John
 3 Cooney.
 4 MR. COONEY: Thank you. My name is John
 5 Cooney. I am a resident of Maine and I am also a
 6 landowner of property in the western mountains of
 7 Maine. I'm going to talk a little bit about
 8 economic benefits. Last week Charlie Colgan, for
 9 those of you who do know him, he's a renowned
 10 economist that's well regarded and respected in
 11 the state of Maine, issued a report on the
 12 economic benefits of Maine and that report
 13 included the following facts: the wind projects
 14 that have been built to date have generated in
 15 excess of \$200,000 of wages paid to Maine people
 16 per megawatt installed.
 17 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: This is not germane.
 18 MR. COONEY: Okay, economic benefits are
 19 considered by DEP.
 20 HEARING OFFICER: You're fine.
 21 MR. COONEY: Also the report stated that on
 22 average wind energy represents a 2.5 million
 23 dollar capital investment per megawatt. Again,
 24 there's not a lot of capital investment in Maine.
 25 Our state needs to attract capital and this is

1 just one way of doing that. The average wage on
2 these projects including benefits is approximately
3 \$30 an hour. They're good jobs. There's also the
4 benefit of property taxes and I think we also need
5 to consider private property rights.

6 The second thing I'd like to mention is
7 there are a lot of people in the country and in
8 the state that think there's a significant
9 positive impact of renewable wind energy to the
10 state of Maine. Renewable energy displaces
11 reliance on to a certain extent fossil fuels.
12 Right now we have coal burning plants and you
13 can't even eat a fish out of the lakes in the
14 state of Maine. The majority of Maine people are
15 in favor of wind energy. The wind energy projects
16 are stated by people and organizations that are
17 there to support the environment. Those agencies
18 include the Natural Resources Council of Maine and
19 the Conservation Law Foundation.

20 To put things in perspective, I did a little
21 bit of research and from what I can gather, there
22 are approximately five million acres of area in
23 the state of Maine that's above a thousand feet in
24 elevation. To put that in scale, if you took all
25 the disturbed area, and I'm including access

1 roads, transmission lines, turbine paths,
2 everything, and you put that in scale, that would
3 represent a two-inch-by-three-inch square on a
4 football field. So we're not blasting off huge
5 mountains in the state of Maine. That's just not
6 true. Thank you.

7 (Loud applause.)

8 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Anthony
9 DeJulio. Did I get that right?

10 MR. DeJULIO: My name is Anthony DeJulio.
11 I'm trying to sell real estate in this area here
12 right now. One thing in real estate, I mean, I'm
13 just fresh out of classes and I just got my
14 associate broker's license, that I find kind of
15 awkward is when I pick up like a waterfront
16 property on a lake or something a lot of people
17 would think you're ecstatic because their values
18 tend to be a little bit higher, but I tend to kind
19 of get on my back edge a little bit because
20 there's so many rules and regulations that are
21 overseen so I have to step really lightly to make
22 sure that no one incurs any fines or anything like
23 that. I don't feel the same thing is happening
24 for the mountain tops at this time. I feel like
25 to throw a massive structure onto a mountain top

1 like this and not be as closely regulated as the
2 water's edge is kind of awkward to me. Is this
3 something new to the EPA that you guys are looking
4 into and kind of addressing as something you're
5 learning more about or --

6 HEARING OFFICER: Are you referring to the
7 standards that pertain to wind energy projects
8 specifically?

9 MR. DeJULIO: The way I'm looking at it is
10 like when you have waterfront property, it's very
11 regulated as far as trees that you can cut, how
12 close to the water and all that stuff that has to
13 do with the shore frontage. What type of things
14 are the mountains -- you know, what type of things
15 are you looking at and regulating for these people
16 that they're kind of walking up against like this
17 is an obstacle for us?

18 HEARING OFFICER: I wish I brought it with
19 me. At previous sessions we've had a handout.
20 There are 32 different environmental standards
21 that these types of projects have to demonstrate
22 compliance with. That's just under the Site
23 Location of Development Law. There's also the
24 Natural Resources Protection Act. If they have
25 any direct impacts to protected natural resources,

1 they also have to demonstrate compliance with
2 environmental standards that pertain to those
3 resources. So under the Site Law, just to name a
4 few, stormwater, we've talked a little bit about
5 it, they have to demonstrate that they're going to
6 be in compliance with state stormwater standards,
7 they have to meet wildlife standards, erosion and
8 sediment control standards for construction,
9 sound, scenic quality are some that they have to
10 meet. There's a long list of them, safety,
11 tangible benefits for wind power projects, and I
12 can't list all the 32 off the top of my head.

13 MR. DeJULIO: Is it something that you feel

14 is new and you guys are growing to or is it
15 something that you've already set up and it's not
16 really changing anything?
17 HEARING OFFICER: The standards are set and
18 each applicant -- when an application is made to
19 the department, they have to meet the
20 environmental standards that are in place at the
21 time of the application. Our standards tend to
22 change over time because we're constantly learning
23 about what works, what doesn't work, and when we
24 learn -- when we figure out a new direction to go,
25 we have to go through a formal process of changing

1 the rule. We can't just change the rule because
2 we want to. We have to go through a formal
3 process, and if the Board of Environmental
4 Protection agrees and the Legislature agrees, then
5 the rules get changed. So each applicant is
6 subject to the standards that are in place at the
7 time, but we are constantly evolving. If you look
8 at our history, all of our rules have changed over
9 time.

10 MR. DeJULIO: Do you feel this is something
11 that would be regulated greater as we get closer
12 -- say they go up, do you feel it's something
13 that's going to be regulated more and more so that
14 the setback rules would be different and --

15 HEARING OFFICER: Once an application is
16 filed and the decision has been issued, then
17 chances are the standards for that development are
18 going to stay the same. Obviously the Legislature
19 could make changes to standards that are
20 retroactive but typically that's not the case. So
21 most of the time when they're permitted, they're
22 permitted subject to the standards at the time.

23 MR. DeJULIO: The other question that I
24 had, I heard there was a view specialist up here.
25 What type of stuff do you look into on a daily

1 can't do. The reason is -- and there aren't
2 similar things for hillsides except perhaps maybe
3 in the Plum Creek land that LURC is working with.
4 The Wind Energy Act specifically says that it's
5 insufficient -- just because turbines are visible,
6 that's insufficient to say that it's an
7 unreasonable impact. That's a whole different
8 criteria than any other kind of project in the
9 state of Maine. So it's all different criteria.

10 So, I mean, you can read the Act. There's about
11 nine different classes of significant scenic areas
12 which are all pretty clearly defined. So those
13 are the areas that get impacted, not your home or
14 anybody's home. They're all pretty much public
15 areas, publicly-owned areas or areas where the
16 public has the right to go and then there's six or
17 seven criteria that get evaluated for each of
18 those specific areas. So it's real different than
19 the situation that you're more accustomed to.

20 MR. DeJULIO: Thank you.

21 MR. PALMER: Does that make sense?

22 MR. DeJULIO: Yes. Another question that I
23 had -- I just have like four quick questions.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Understand we do have 23
25 more people to go.

1 basis -- is it a full-time job that you maintain
2 to do this?

3 HEARING OFFICER: Jim.

4 MR. PALMER: No, it's not full-time.

5 MR. DeJULIO: So it's like a part-time
6 position?

7 MR. PALMER: I'm a consultant and I work on
8 projects part-time, correct. I taught landscape
9 --

10 HEARING OFFICER: He works for us
11 part-time.

12 MR. PALMER: Correct. I taught landscape
13 architecture and did research in this area for 26
14 years.

15 MR. DeJULIO: What type of things are you
16 looking into view-wise with regards to this
17 project that they're looking into?

18 MR. PALMER: They're the things that Maine
19 Wind Energy Act requires us to look into. So I'd
20 like to answer that a little broader. I'm
21 assuming -- you began by saying why aren't the
22 standards similar to the shoreline vegetation
23 clearance standards which are pretty strict and
24 affect people who want to have a wide lawn in
25 front of their house right on a lake, which you

1 MR. DeJULIO: Yeah, yeah, quick. If the
2 windmill project fails, is there any way that the
3 EPA or any government agency could make them take
4 it down properly? Is there any type of regulation
5 like that?

6 HEARING OFFICER: One of the standards that
7 we require all wind power projects to meet is a
8 decommissioning standard and that's a unique
9 standard for wind power projects. No other
10 development in the state of Maine has to
11 demonstrate to the Department's satisfaction
12 before a permit is issued how they're going to
13 dismantle the facility at the end of its useful
14 life. So wind power projects do have to do that,
15 and it's fairly complicated. Not only do they
16 have to demonstrate how physically they're going
17 to tear it down and remove it and restore the
18 landscape, they have to physically set aside money
19 to do that.

20 MR. DeJULIO: That's great.

21 HEARING OFFICER: And the money isn't set
22 aside in one lump sum. It's set aside over a
23 period of time. The general useful life of these
24 facilities by the manufacturers' specifications is
25 roughly 20 years, and we require that the full

1 funding of the total cost of decommissioning be
2 set aside in an account that the Department has
3 access to. So if the developer goes belly up and
4 can't physically remove the facility, the money
5 would be available for the state to step in and
6 actually execute the decommissioning. They have
7 to be fully funded within 15 years and then for
8 every -- it's a little more complicated than this
9 but I won't go into all the details, but for every
10 year after 15 years that the development continues
11 to operate, they have to reassess the cost of
12 decommissioning and put more money in so that at
13 all times it's a fully-funded decommissioning
14 fund.

15 MR. DeJULIO: That's great. It seems like
16 it takes awhile to get the money there.

17 HEARING OFFICER: It does take awhile to
18 get the money there.

19 MR. DeJULIO: It's great that you guys take
20 that position, and the last question that I had is
21 for you guys, is this one of the biggest issues
22 that you have right now? This windmill stuff
23 that's going on, is this --

24 HEARING OFFICER: It depends on who you
25 ask.

1 MR. DeJULIO: How about you?

2 HEARING OFFICER: It's one of the biggest
3 issues we have.

4 MR. DeJULIO: Thank you for your time.
5 (Loud applause.)

6 HEARING OFFICER: Is Diane McAlister here?
7 I'll just say next up is going to be Dan McKay,
8 just so you're ready. I'm going to try to get
9 people closer to the podium and give everyone a
10 fair warning. Thank you.

11 MS. McALISTER: I only had a few questions
12 and I think two or three of them have been
13 answered. My first one was about the fire risk.
14 I have a cabin called receptor number 2, whatever
15 that may be, and so I'm not very far away from the
16 windmills, and my concern was fire safety and what
17 you guys looked at as far as that goes.

18 HEARING OFFICER: We will have a
19 conversation with the applicant about fire
20 safety.

21 MS. McALISTER: And the second question,
22 the one that hasn't been answered at all, is I
23 have a dug well, I'm right on the side of the
24 mountain, and I have a dug well. When they do
25 their leveling of the mountain top, their

1 blasting, whatever, is this going to impact my
2 water? Is this going to interrupt my water base?
3 Is this going to make my well go dry?

4 HEARING OFFICER: We just happen to have an
5 expert that can speak to that. So I'm going to
6 hand the mike to John.

7 MR. HOPECK: Without knowing exactly where
8 your well is with regard to the proposed
9 development, generally what we know in a dug
10 well --

11 MS. McALISTER: I'm about, they say on the
12 map, 3,700 feet I think it said.

13 MR. HOPECK: For a dug well, what we know
14 is that the area within where you're gathering
15 water from is not extending out to that range in
16 the climate and the rock type that we have here.
17 That's very different from what we see out west
18 where there are large regional aquifers and you do
19 have, you know, the recharge being in a different
20 state entirely in many of them. In Maine it
21 doesn't quite work that way. The area that
22 affects most wells is a really relatively limited
23 area right around it, particularly for dug wells
24 that may not be connected to the bedrock system
25 the way that a drilled well would be. We don't

1 usually find impacts traveling that far to dug
2 wells. The issue for a dug well more often would
3 have to do with the sedimentation.

4 MS. McALISTER: Contamination.

5 MR. HOPECK: Yeah, that's what we find as
6 an issue for those is the amount of sediment
7 getting off the site and into the well very often
8 is more of an issue than a chemical contamination
9 would be. At that distance, I don't think that it
10 would be very likely that you would see sediment
11 transported from the site to your well to have an
12 impact, but that question of what is the potential
13 for impact on groundwater quality and quantity is
14 certainly one of the very basic standards that we
15 do look at in evaluating these developments.

16 MS. McALISTER: Because a guy down the road
17 from us he has a spring fed well and, of course,
18 his is on top of the ground and mine is underneath
19 the ground so it's kind of the same thing, how is
20 that going to affect the spring fed wells that are
21 on my stretch?

22 MR. HOPECK: Again, it's hard to say
23 exactly without looking at just what's happening
24 right on that particular watershed but what we'd
25 have to see is where are -- one of the questions

1 we do ask them is where are the water supplies and
 2 where are the drainage boundaries that are going
 3 to affect those, and if there's a water supply
 4 that could impact the drainage of that area, then
 5 we need to know where the proximity of that impact
 6 to the water supply is. With some of these
 7 springs, in a true groundwater spring, in Maine
 8 those tend not to be very far traveled. You may
 9 be looking at -- some of the larger regional
 10 systems in Maine you may be looking at a mile or
 11 so, but that's not the case up here where we have
 12 these smaller systems and they're really
 13 constrained to the watershed. I can't say
 14 specifically without knowing exactly where these
 15 are, but I'll say that is one of the things that
 16 we are very interested in is how --

17 MS. McALISTER: Do you look at that for all
 18 the little dots on the map and see where their
 19 water may be coming from and you guys do look at
 20 that?

21 MR. HOPECK: Yes.

22 MS. McALISTER: Now, is there any recourse
 23 if my water does go bad or just dries up and goes
 24 away? Is there any recourse on my side that here
 25 I have a house but no water or no usable water?

1 it. The first order of consideration that we look
 2 at is what are the likely effects and what are the
 3 sources of impact, and for us in looking at these
 4 projects that are typically sort of handling of
 5 fuel and lubricants on the site and the conduct of
 6 how they handle erosion on the site and stormwater
 7 management and the use of explosives on the site,
 8 and so those are sort of the first tiered things
 9 that actually we know that if these are not done
 10 correctly, there will be impacts on water
 11 quality. For the amount of blasting that's done
 12 and the distance from the water supply sources in
 13 this area, the blasting is really not something
 14 that I would be concerned about with over 10,000
 15 feet.

16 MS. McALISTER: So they say. It doesn't
 17 seem that far when I look at the mountain but
 18 that's what the map says on your website there.

19 MR. HOPECK: With these sizes of explosive
 20 charges that we're looking at for this kind of
 21 project and with those distances, I would not be
 22 concerned about the blasting as very likely
 23 impacting on your water quality. There are other
 24 things that may provide greater risk than that.

25 MS. McALISTER: Yeah, like the fire. That

1 MR. HOPECK: Where --

2 MS. McALISTER: Where do I stand from
 3 there? Where do I go from there?

4 MR. HOPECK: One of the standards in the
 5 law, one of the ways that we apply one of the
 6 standards in the law, is that as someone who has
 7 an existing use of the groundwater that the
 8 development -- one of the general standards of the
 9 Site Law is the development has to respect your
 10 use of the groundwater, and as we interpret that,
 11 that means that whatever goes on, you have to be
 12 able to enjoy the same level of use of that water
 13 as before. Now, dug wells, drilled wells, these
 14 are all things that deteriorate over time. Water
 15 quality changes over time, the climate changes,
 16 all kinds of things happen, and so at some point
 17 we have to make a judgment about whether or not
 18 certain resources are -- whether or not the
 19 impacts on certain resources are going to be --

20 MS. STEELE: Natural or caused by a --

21 MR. HOPECK: -- natural or caused by an
 22 agent that is applying for the permit. Very often
 23 there may be a human agent involved but it may not
 24 be this one. How do we distinguish that? That's
 25 certainly something we get into and we consider

1 wouldn't take long to come down the mountain and
 2 hit my cabin either. So that was -- the fires and
 3 the water issue and I got this answered while I
 4 was standing outside, my question was how much of
 5 this land is going to be closed off because we --
 6 we snowmobile all year long -- all winter long and
 7 we hike all summer long. So we are always
 8 outdoors. There's not much else to do at camp but
 9 be outdoors. So the person said to me that
 10 they're not going to close off any of the land
 11 that is used for the turbines.

12 HEARING OFFICER: It's our understanding --
 13 I don't know this particular project intimately
 14 but I know most of the wind power projects they
 15 don't close off the land.

16 MS. McALISTER: They don't, okay. That's
 17 all. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER: The next speaker after
 19 Dan McKay is Tom Powell.

20 MR. MCKAY: Good evening. I believe, Mr.
 21 Marjerum, we've had a few e-mail contacts as well
 22 as Ms. Hallowell. The first thing I want to talk
 23 about is the construction jobs because I am in
 24 construction and interested in how quite often
 25 it's remarked how wind projects have created such

1 a boom for the construction industry here in
2 Maine. First of all, I do a lot of earth work and
3 from what I can see, a good 90 percent of the jobs
4 right now the earth work portion is done by
5 Sargent Corporation and I'm sure you're aware that
6 there are a lot more outfits -- construction
7 outfits here in Maine besides the Sargent
8 Corporation, as well as drilling and blasting
9 companies besides Maine Drilling & Blasting and
10 people who have cranes besides Reed & Reed, but
11 these three companies seem to gather all the wind
12 power jobs.

13 The money for this wind is highly subsidized
14 by the federal government, highways are fairly
15 highly subsidized by the federal government,
16 utilities construction is highly subsidized by the
17 federal government. What utility and highway jobs
18 do is bring about all construction outfits in
19 Maine, not just the largest, but they all get an
20 opportunity to work on it. I wish you'd all been
21 down at the preconstruction meeting at Roxbury
22 when we had several folks come in thinking they
23 were going to get some work from the project up
24 there and just come to find out that, no, the team
25 was in place, they didn't need any local help.

1 Okay, I'm sorry, I got off subject. I do that.
2 First of all, tangible benefits, how did that get
3 into the site location permit process?
4 HEARING OFFICER: Again, it came about as a
5 result of the Wind Energy Task Force. There were
6 four changes to the site location process as a
7 result of the task force. The first one we talked
8 quite a bit about. It was the change in the
9 scenic criteria. So there's a separate scenic for
10 wind power projects. Then the tangible benefit
11 standard was added, the safety setback standard
12 was added and the shadow flicker standard was
13 added. So those four things are unique to just
14 wind power.

15 MR. McKAY: Now, back to tangible benefits,
16 why was that constructed as part of an application
17 process? Did they ever explain that to you from
18 the task force?

19 HEARING OFFICER: I was not a part of the
20 task force so that would be a better question to
21 ask somebody who was on the task force, but my
22 understanding was that they wanted to ensure that
23 there was some public benefit given back to the
24 communities as a result of these projects and this
25 was a way of ensuring that the Department had some

1 ability to require applicants for wind power
2 projects to give something back to the local
3 community and the surrounding area. Why they did
4 that, I can't say, I was not part of the task
5 force. Several legislators were and we can get
6 you the names of those folks and you can ask the
7 question of them.

8 MR. McKAY: I think I will if you can give
9 me the names. I guess now it leads me to the
10 question, how much is a tangible benefit? Does \$3
11 to a town satisfy tangible benefits? I mean, what
12 is the criteria? As far as I can see, there's
13 never been a question on a tangible benefit
14 section from the DEP.

15 HEARING OFFICER: We're going to have to
16 get back to you with the answer to that. I don't
17 have the regulation right in front of me. When
18 the regulation was first put in place, there were
19 really no practical guidelines for what
20 constituted an adequate tangible benefit so we
21 kind of felt our way along with the first couple
22 of applications. There were some changes to the
23 tangible benefit legislation during the last
24 legislative session, and I apologize, I just don't
25 have it in front of me and my brain is not working

1 tonight, but there is a more definitive standard
2 now that applicants have to demonstrate and we'll
3 make sure you get a copy of that so you can get an
4 answer to that question.

5 MR. McKAY: I thank you very much, and this
6 is getting away from you again because I know
7 you've been mandated by the task force, but I am
8 curious, tangible benefits seem like an
9 advertisement for the wind company and there's no
10 negative aspects presented or no form for it, at
11 least not in your application process, and what
12 I'm wondering is many people will see this --
13 these projects as a risk and can see some factors
14 that might not work out as well. It might take
15 away -- even some of these tangible benefits may
16 get gobbled up in some event that's not foreseen
17 but we can think about it and say, well, can we
18 take this risk, and I'm -- it's no criticism of
19 you, I know the tangible benefits is just lopped
20 into your environmental statement which I think is
21 out of place but neither here nor there.

22 Now, decommissioning, this is another
23 curious one. Where you're an environmental
24 agency, how did that come about? Is that again
25 the task force?